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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 003367

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/14/2015

TAGS: CM IR IZ LE PREL VI PARM TU EUN

SUBJECT: JUNE 13 GAERC DEMARCHE - TURKEY

REF: STATE 105235

Classified By: Polcounselor John Kunstadter; reasons: E.O. 12958 1.4 (b,d).

¶1. (U) We delivered reftel demarche on June 13 to Turkish MFA EU Political Affairs Department First Secretary Ege Turemen; he provided minimal responses to the following demarche topics.

Kosovo

He noted that the U.S. position remains the same as that enunciated in an earlier demarche about the Balkans and Kosovo.

Iran

He said Turkey would support permitting Iran to have a peaceful nuclear power program.

Lebanon

He noted that Prime Minister Erdogan planned to visit Lebanon June 15.

Iraq

Turemen said that Turkey wanted U.S. assistance to fight PKK terrorism. On Iraq, he further stated that Turkey considers it a milestone for Iraq to develop a constitution; supports the political process; favors capacity building; urges Iraqis to include Sunnis in the political process; hopes Iraqis work to achieve a good Kurdish-Iraqi relationship; and urges Turkish-Iraqi border security cooperation to fight terrorism, noting the developments in Iraq will have repercussions beyond that country.

China

He simply noted the U.S. position on the China Arms Embargo.

¶2. (C) Comment: Turemen's weak performance reflects both the passive-aggressiveness of Turkey's policy harmonization with the EU and the unwillingness of the MFA to take forthright positions on many issues of key importance to the U.S. End comment.

EDELMAN